









## EDMONTON DAILY BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 1908.

## PROVINCIAL INTERFERENCE IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS.

A defender of the Helms-McElbride registration system declares that hundreds of names are omitted from the voters' lists in Nova Scotia every year, and wants to know why the Election Law amendments affect the system in vogue in British Columbia but not that of Nova Scotia.

The answer is simply that the system used in British Columbia is the system used in Nova Scotia. In the latter Province the lists are prepared under the supervision of the municipal bodies, and are more familiar with their respective localities, and least likely to be moved by party bias. In British Columbia the lists are prepared by the Provincial Government, and are equally applicable to the cause of extending the franchise to unqualified men or of restricting it from men daily qualified in both of which cases it has been proved to be rigorously, systematically and consistently employed.

If names are intentionally omitted from the voters' lists of Nova Scotia, or if names are wrongfully entered, the fault lies with the Provincial Government, and not with the system, and the officials are easily approachable under the law. In British Columbia the system affords a corrupt official every opportunity of slipping off the blame of his crimes on the system, and thus evading the punishment of the law.

The system existing in Nova Scotia is the system when Parliament approved ten years ago. It was decided to accept Provincial lists prepared for the purposes of Federal elections. Against that system Mr. Borden neither then nor now has uttered a word of protest. But when occasion for look around ground against the Dominion agreement to accept Provincial lists prepared in any other way than the lists now prepared, that is the way in which the Nova Scotia lists are now prepared.

If evidence is desired as to the operation of the British Columbia registration system it is offered by a journal which can be charged on any party line, and which may be credited with familiarity with the political methods and happenings of that Province. The Prince Rupert Herald has just issued an illuminating paragraph to this effect in a recent issue. The evidence is the most convincing that the Empire declared its belief in the Provincial list Government would not remove the evils of the system. But merely transfer the advantage to be derived from them to the other side of the Legislature. The Empire cannot, therefore, be discredited by an accusation of prejudice.

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exclusive business of British Columbia. When this began, the Dominion Parliament in that Province. These men carry on their Parliamentary duties with money that is the property of the people of the Province. Prince Edward Island quite as much as to their constituents. They are charged with developing lines of policy for the general good of the country and are expected to take as genuine concern in promoting the welfare of Alberta and Prince Edward Island as they are in the welfare of British Columbia. They are the representatives and governors of the Dominion of Canada not merely of the Province of British Columbia.

For this reason the people of Canada claim the right to insist that members of Parliament shall be representatives of the living generation of Canadians and all of the living generation who are entitled to vote, quite irrespective of the Province of locality where any particular member comes. In assertion of this right the Dominion Parliament from 1867 to 1896 prepared separate voters' lists for each Province. In 1896 Parliament for purposes of economy and convenience decided to accept Provincial lists for Federal elections. It provided these lists were prepared as these lists were then prepared. In doing Parliament made it abundantly clear that there was no intention or notion of transferring to the Provinces any inalienable right to prepare voters' lists for Federal elections. The fact that the Dominion Government has the exercise of the public franchise in such elections.

If therefore the proposed amendment will mean the revision of voters' lists in one Province, but not in another, the blame lies with the Provincial authorities who have refused to accept of Provincial lists for Federal elections. While the revision of lists has been left to the Provincial Government or to court a quarrel with the Federal Government makes no difference to the argument. It is the revision of lists in one Province, but not in another, the blame lies with the Provincial authorities who have refused to accept of Provincial lists for Federal elections. While the revision of lists has been left to the Provincial Government or to court a quarrel with the Federal Government makes no difference to the argument.

## REMEDYING THE GRIEVANCES.

The Civil Service Commissioners as the result of their inquiry reported two separate and distinct findings. First, that there were dishonest officials in the employ of the Marine and Fisheries Department.

Second, that the present system of engaging, promoting and paying civil servants was not a good one and liable to inefficiency of service.

These two findings placed before the Government two separate and distinct lines of duty.

First, to correct, who were the cause of the evil, if such there were, and to punish them if the charges should be proven.

Second, to amend the system of employing, promoting and paying the civil servants so as to remedy the evil found to exist.

The first duty called for the appointment of a judicial commission of investigation to find against whom the bad-faith accusations of the commission had been launched.

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## A WARNING TO YOUNG MEN.

This is the letter left by the unfortunate Deputy Superintendent of New Brunswick, who shot himself a few days ago when the investigations of the Provincial audit made further concealment of his nefarious conduct impossible.

"I cannot face the publicity of my delinquency, as it will be stigmatized, and could not endure the scorn and blame of my enemies. For some time I have known that my name was to be connected with this hanging over my life, and I cannot endure it longer. If in the goodness of your hearts you will, your colleagues can do anything for my poor wife, for God's sake do it, and let her starve."

A copy of this sad note should be in the hands of every young man in the country occupying a position of trust. The author was a man highly respected in the community, and as the note reveals, far from devoid of noble sentiments. That he delinquency which ended in tragedy, is altogether imprudent.

Much more likely he speculated with money "borrowed" from the funds of the Government, and was later found himself unable to replace them.

## THE ELECTION LAW.

OTTAWA, Free Press.—The house of the first day's debate upon the second reading of the bill to amend the Election Law act undoubtedly remain with the Liberals. The speech of the minister of justice was a masterly defence of the chief provision of the bill—that of the prohibition of the registration of voters in unincorporated districts in which proper provisions are not made for the registration of their names.

Mr. Aylesworth had already explained the other clauses of the bill on its introduction, so that it was unnecessary in order for him to do so last night. The explanation of the bill was a masterpiece of logic and force.

His explanation was explicit and met every weight with the country at large, despite the theatrical protestations of the Conservatives.

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These things with comprehensive. From Ottawa comes the word that the House of Commons will be called to order at Fort William. They tell them to take time in a warmer climate; besides then into a railway carriage, look them up; regard them with approval and personal and side-tracked them at Yorkton, Saskatchewan. This was the way of dealing with the able citizens; and, if it is justifiable and it is to be taken as a basis for further action, may a serious question which may happen to have undue delay of fraudulent citizens, who have lived in Ontario for a time, may free them from the families or kidnapping them, a la Whitney government, and side-tracking them at some remote station in Ontario. And if the notion of the Whitney government is correct in the case of the bookkeepers, then the action of a western province may be correct and they would be equally correct and just. The matter has only to be clearly stated to show what a glaring piece of severity the Whitney government has been guilty of.

Of course, as it was at first represented it looked all right. The public mind thought that the Government of Fort William had expressed a desire to go back to their friends in Saskatchewan, but did not want to leave behind the 10 who had been convicted of infidelity and were at Port Arthur. The Ontario officials, therefore, had waited the time of justice; there was no reason that was not the present accommodation for them. They had asked for a resolution that they be pardoned. The minister had said that they would be pardoned.

But, as things turned out, the Dominion Government was not only correct and just, but also correct and just. The matter has only to be clearly stated to show what a glaring piece of severity the Whitney government has been guilty of.

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